

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please enter the three replacement sheets of drawings that are attached to this Amendment. These replacement sheets have revisions in Figures 1, 3, and 8.

REMARKS

The Office Action of October 18, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

The present Amendment adds new dependent claims 23-26 to further protect the invention. It is noted that claims 23 and 24 are supported by the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 14, and claim 25 is supported by the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 18. Claim 26 is supported by the passage at page 26, line 25 to page 28, line 23.

The present Amendment also forwards corrected replacement drawings for Figures 1, 3, and 8, in reply to the drawing objections in section 1 of the Office Action.

In accordance with one notable feature of the parking lot management system that is disclosed in the present application, wireless LAN base stations 20 and 22 (see Figure 1 of the present application's drawings) are provided in a parking lot 12. Data is communicated between the LAN base stations and a server 100 through a network 90, which employs internet protocol. This arrangement permits rapid communication between the server 100 and devices in the parking lot 12, including mobile objects 50 with wireless LAN mobile stations 52.

A second notable feature of the system disclosed in the present application is that the wireless LAN mobile stations 52 are not mounted on vehicles. Instead, they are connected to the mobile objects 50, which may be mobile telephones (see page 12 of the application, lines 14-17) or possibly objects that are issued when entering the parking lot. The wireless LAN mobile station 52 has unique identifying information (see page 12, lines 22-26). This permits information about a vehicle's location to be stored in the server 100 of the vehicles when they are parked (see page 26, line 25 to page 28, line 23).

The wireless LAN base stations 20 and 22 can be used to detect the position of the wireless LAN mobile station 52 based on signal intensity or phase (see page 9, lines 13-19), so the person can use the mobile object 50 to help find the way back to the person's vehicle.

Section 3 of the Office Action rejects independent claim 1 (along with various dependent claims) for obviousness on the basis of Kirkpatrick in view of Slemmer et al (which will hereafter be called simply "Slemmer"). These references will now be briefly discussed.

The Kirkpatrick reference communicates using a transmitter 110 when a data receiving body (e.g., a car) enters a data transmission area 113. This is different from using a wireless LAN, where the communication range is determined by the wireless LAN. It should also be noted that Kirkpatrick does not teach data transmission via a network based on internet protocol, or storage of a vehicle's position when the vehicle is parked based on identification information assigned to a wireless LAN mobile station.

The Slemmer reference teaches wireless communication between a processor 310 and a communication tower 321T, but does not teach the use of the wireless LAN. Paragraph [0036] of the reference mentions the use of a computer network and an interface with a communication link such as DHL, which is similar to the conventional technology described in the "Background of the Invention" portion of the present application. It should also be noted that Slemmer does not store information about the vehicle's position when it is parked.

Turning now to claim 1, this claim recites "a plurality of wireless LAN base stations ... forming a wireless LAN system ...". Although the Office Action takes the

position that Kirkpatrick discloses a plurality of wireless LAN base stations, Applicant respectfully disagrees. The reference comments that the transmitter 110 shown in Kirkpatrick's Figure 1 can transmit and receive (see column 5, lines 1-4), but this does not make it the wireless LAN base station that forms part of a wireless LAN system. As for the transmitters 210 and 211 in the arrangement shown in Kirkpatrick's Figure 2, it is respectfully submitted that an ordinarily skilled person would understand from the description of Figure 2 that is presented by the reference that the transmitters 210 and 211 only transmit. That is, they receive information from sensors at the parking spaces and transmit it to a receiver 250 in a vehicle.

Claim 1 also recites "communication means for communicating the parking information between the plurality of wireless LAN base stations and the server via an IP network operating with internet protocol." Just as Kirkpatrick lacks wireless LAN base stations in a wireless LAN system, it lacks such a communications means.

The Slemmer reference fails to disclose or suggest what is missing from Kirkpatrick. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that both references together would not have led an ordinarily skilled person to the invention defined by claim 1.

Since the remaining claims depend from the independent claims discussed above and recite additional limitations to further define the invention, they are patentable along with their independent claims and need not be further discussed. Nevertheless, several dependent claims will now be briefly addressed.

New claim 23 provides that "the mobile object is a "portable communication device." The Office Action asserts that patent 6,147,624 to Clapper teaches a GPS device located in a vehicle for transmitting the current vehicle position, but a GPS device

located in a vehicle is not a “portable communication device.” New claim 25 provides that “the wireless mobile LAN station of the mobile object has unique identification information.” There is no reason why an ordinarily skilled person would suspect that this is true of Clapper’s GPS device. New claim 26, which depends from claim 25, provides that “the mobile object is a portable communication device carried by a driver of a vehicle,” and that “the server stores position information about the vehicle when the vehicle is parked based on the identification information.”

The remaining references will now be briefly addressed. In Li, a sensor 10 is provided in each parking space, and a computer 20 monitors and administers the vacant space.

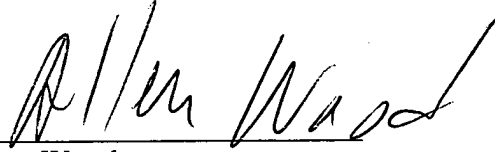
In the Johnson reference, a local transmitter 30 is used to transmit information between a car and a key fob 26. The reference does not relate to data transmission within a parking lot.

The Haynes reference merely discloses technology for managing a parking lot.

It is noted that the application has been amended to include 4 additional claims in excess of 20. Accordingly, an additional claim fee of \$200 is included in a remittance that is being submitted concurrently.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Allen Wood", written over a horizontal line.

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